

FDA
Docket Management Branch
Room 1061
Rockville, MD. 20852

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January 28, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to the FDA's proposal that requires synthetic pesticides on all sprouts. We strongly disagree with these proposed changes (Docket No. 99D-4488 and 99D-4489) in FDA protocol.

On October 27th, the FDA issued two new guidance documents for the sprout industry. This was in response to recent outbreaks allegedly caused by sprouts. However, the majority of evidence used to link sprouts with the eleven pathogenic outbreaks is based on statistics rather than physical evidence.

If these guidance papers were enacted, small sprout growers would be devastated. The guidance papers would force growers to have a uniform size and appearance, to the clear benefit of larger growers. Experts in the field of sprout growing say that the new guidance papers completely eliminate the possibility of a small sprout farm.

As a concerned consumer, I would lose my source of organic sprouts, as well as the option of buying them organically. Essentially these guidance papers, if enacted, would force all consumers to consume food steeped in Chlorine.

Please do not enact these guidance papers.

Sincerely,

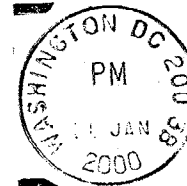
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